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Taking Stock

Arts Council looks at the successes of the last year and plans for future. See page 2.

Power of Music

Local resident contributes to book on the healing power of music. See page 4.

Mapping Wetlands

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust receives funding to map wetland complex near Minden. See page 7.

Wrap It Up

Annual art show and sale is taking place Saturday, Dec. 14 at Haliburton School of Art + Design. See story on page 5. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

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Arts Council reflects on year, eyes future

DARREN LUM
County Life Staff

The prevailing theme of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands at this year's annual general meeting was all about taking steps forward and inspiring others. They discussed the continued success of events such as the perennially sold-out Fashion Fallies, the evolution of SPARC (Supporting Performing Arts in Rural and Remote Communities) as it expands across Ontario, promoting the arts to new people through programs such as writers in residence and Artist in the School and Community, and the introduction of new youth membership.

Prompted by Greg Sadlier, who asked about youth opportunities, board chairperson Kate Butler introduced the new youth membership, which will enable high school students and those enrolled at the Haliburton School of Art + Design to join the Arts Council for $15.

Butler said this will give new members an opportunity "to dip their toe in the water a little bit."

"It will be a slightly modified membership, but we feel it will be a really good way to connect with young artists in the community, who are just establishing themselves and it will also open up further opportunities for mentoring, which is the word of the night," she said.

Sadlier suggested the Arts Council facilitate a regular meeting for young artists, who can gather to share ideas, socialize, inspire and be inspired, and possibly provide input to the Arts Council.

Butler and other members were open to the concept. She said this and other ideas discussed will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Scott Walling's nomination to sit on the council's board was confirmed. Laurie O'Reilly, Laurie Jones and Dan Manley have stepped down. Walling said he is joining the board because he wanted to give back to the community and hopes to be part of an effort to ensure youth stay. The Arts Council welcomes members interested in joining the board to fill the vacancies.

Past chairperson and current board member Chris Lynd spoke about the art show held at Sir Sam's Ski and Ride during the Thanksgiving weekend.

Invited by Sir Sam's, the Arts Council recognized the weekend was during the Haliburton Highlands Studio Tour, but didn't want to pass up the opportunity for exposure to some 1,000 people.

The show was an opportunity to educate the public about the Arts Council, to promote the studio tour artists and studios, and the approximate 24 participating artists, who showcased close to 58 pieces.

Sir Sam's has already reached out for another show this winter, Lynd said.

She added a January date is being deliberated and may include two shows of six weeks each.

"It's a great location. It's a lot of people. Again, not everybody there was looking to buy art, but everybody there was [saying], 'Wow.' We impressed a few people that didn't know the quality and calibre of art that is happening in the community so, hopefully, in the end, you know, it's all about somebody seeing something," she said.

SPARC is now entering its fourth year.

"We continue to get encouragement for this project [that] says, 'keep going, keep going. There is a need for what you do,'" Lynd said.

Hiring Jason Manitowabi as the northern outreach co-ordinator, SPARC has established a connection to communities in northern Ontario for the first time. The key aspect to this wasn't only reaching people and communities, but also maintaining relationships, Lynd clarified.

Barrie Martin said, "One thing it's done for Haliburton, it's really raised our reputation as a true arts community. We're seen as a standard – this happens in other sectors as well, but certainly from a performing arts point of view."

Some of the $99,000 Canadian Heritage grant, which is being used this year, will help fund the upcoming SPARC Symposium at The Gathering Place by the Grand from May 7 to 10 this spring at Six Nations of the Grand River, in southwestern Ontario.

"This is very big for us to have Canadian Heritage fund us in this way," Lynd said.

The theme for the first-time symposium is reconciliation and connection.

Programming by SPARC will also benefit from the grant.

Arts Council secretary Renee Woltz said as SPARC continues to progress in its efforts as a mentor organization, there was a consideration to alter the mandate and mission to reflect this.

There was a preliminary discussion at the meeting, which lasted at least several minutes. Members examined the wording and brainstormed about relevant changes to mirror the evolutionary scope of what served the local area and has grown to include communities across Ontario and, hopefully, will include communities across Canada. Butler said more will be talked about at the Arts Council's next meeting.

The chairperson added SPARC is "a testament to the group in Haliburton that started it, but also to all people around Ontario who are excited about this and want to be part of it. And, as we've always said, success for SPARC will be seeing it as a province-wide organization, not purely Haliburton-based, although of course Haliburton is always going to be its birth place," she said.

County Life

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Making a stronger case for growing the food system

A new report that digs deeper into the local food system has unearthed findings that suggest there is even more reason to enhance the taste of home in Haliburton County.

Harvest Haliburton is highlighting the contents of a report entitled Food and Agriculture in Haliburton County: Looking Beyond the Census (available online at www.harvesthaliburton.com) Co-authored by area residents Faye Adamson and Kate Hall, the report looks more deeply into agriculture, food and business activities in Haliburton County through interviews, focus groups and other fact-finding means. The result, according to the report, is to identify "a more robust and accurate account of farming and food production in Haliburton County" than what is found in recent census data and used by Ontario's agricultural ministry to measure farm activity in this region.

"The Looking Beyond the Census report clarifies the on-the-ground reality of local food production and consumption in Haliburton County. It really confirms the need for more action to nurture this growing sector into 2020 and beyond," says Melissa Johnston, a research consultant who is assisting Harvest Haliburton in its goal of creating a stronger, more vibrant food system in the area.

While the number of farms in Haliburton County may be declining based on recent census data, the Looking Beyond the Census report suggests otherwise. It cites a trend where the county is seeing an increase in small-scale growers like market gardeners and homesteaders who are not always captured in the official census data.

The report also challenges census findings that total acreage for vegetable production in Haliburton is declining. "In fact, (stakeholders) noted that there seem to be more new farms now than ever before," the report finds.

Johnston says the Looking Beyond the Census report is timely, and coincided with roundtable discussions hosted by Harvest Haliburton last month that brought together food stakeholders to gather ideas on moving forward with enhancing Haliburton County's food system.

To that end, Harvest Haliburton is also encouraging local growers who sell food products at their farm gate to identify themselves by completing a fillable online form (www.harvesthaliburton.com/add-your-farm.html). They will be added to the current list of local growers posted on the Harvest Haliburton website.

Creating an online information hub that lets people easily find listings for locally-produced foods is among six priorities identified to enhance Haliburton's food system. The priorities came out of a very successful Food and Agriculture Economic Development forum held in Minden last March. The forum shone the spotlight on food and agriculture-related projects in Haliburton County and let attendees brainstorm ideas on how to boost opportunities in this sector.

The other 'local food' priorities identified from that forum include:

- Developing a Taste of the County brand that promotes local food to residents and visitors.
- Reviewing current policies and regulations – including municipal bylaws – that may impact or hinder local food production.
- Exploring the feasibility of a local food distribution model.
- Setting up an Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Committee for Haliburton County.
- Putting climate change and food security at the forefront of all food-related initiatives.

Submitted by the HKPR Health Unit

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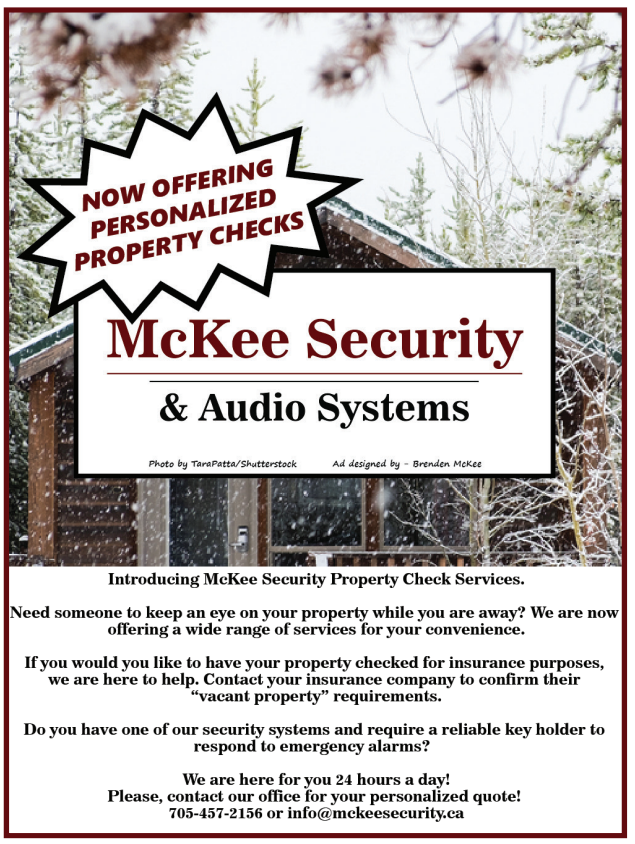

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Local resident featured in book about healing power of music

SUE TIFFIN
County Life Staff

The Awesome Music Project: Songs of Hope and Happiness is a book featuring a collection of stories chronicling the transformative power of music from more than 100 people including Danny Michel, Sarah McLachlan, Theo Fleury, Fred Penner, Chris Hadfield and Eagle Lake resident Cam Espina.

The book by Robert Carli and Terry Stuart was released on Oct. 10, World Mental Health Day, with proceeds going toward music and mental health research initiatives – a cause near and dear to Espina's heart.

A few years ago, when Espina was in Grade 11, struggles with his own mental health resulted in him being admitted to the hospital in Peterborough for several weeks. Finding few resources that offered the therapeutic support he was seeking as he worked through depression and anxiety, his mom advocated for him to be able to access a piano in the chapel there, as well as his own guitar.

"In the hospital, I wasn't allowed to bring my guitar for a little bit," he said. "Then I was able to just sit in my room and play. At that time I realized I could channel all of my negative energy into that, into my guitar, and instead of being self-destructive and harming to myself I could put that energy into something else and get music out of it and get art out of it. So I started writing, I started trying to write and learn more things and realized I could convey anxiety and sadness and confusion in my playing. I could write a song about something and store all of that energy in that, and have this piece of art but also feel that weight come off of my chest."

Cam Espina holds *The Awesome Music Project*, a book he contributed a story to alongside fellow Canadians Chris Hadfield, Sarah McLachlan, Theo Fleury and Madeleine Thien. All proceeds from the book support music and mental health research initiatives. / SUE TIFFIN Staff

Now, Espina has weaned himself off of medications he has found unhelpful for him in the past – antidepressants, anti-psychotics, ADHD medication and benzodiazepines – and though he notes the benefit of medication for many, said for him, music therapy was life-saving and helped him get through tragedies in his life including a car accident due to side effects of one of his medications, and the unexpected and sudden death of his friend. His hope is that more people can access the benefits of listening to and playing music, and music therapy, as part of their treatment to help heal.

"I have a hard time putting together words and speaking sometimes," reads his entry in *The Awesome Music Project* book. "I feel like I can say a lot more with sound and melody. It's definitely the best way I have to express my emotions, to convey happiness, sadness, confusion. If I'm feeling down or worked up, the only thing that can take my mind off everything is playing. I just feed that energy through the music. It feeds right through and out of your soul. My dream is to pass my energy through my music directly into someone else's soul."

Interested in music since his childhood, Espina said he had let his guitar sit for years before picking it up and putting the effort into learning how to play it.

"One day I was kind of looking at it and realized ... I felt like I didn't do it justice, it felt like it had some things to say, and I was just looking at it for years watching it silently ... I felt bad," he said. "Because you gain an emotional relationship with your instruments. So I just picked it up one day and started learning because ... I wanted the guitar to say the things it had to say. It can't do that unless there's somebody playing it."

Espina plays in two bands, finding solace in the music he listens to, as well as the music he creates.

"It's a very slow climb, getting comfortable, and I still have so much to learn," he said of learning to play. "But once you get past that barrier and realize it's going to be frustrating and it's going to take a lot of time, then it's worth it."

For his entry, on page 80 in *The Awesome Music Project*, he spoke to Led Zeppelin's live version of the song Rain – not necessarily his favourite song, he said, but one that has helped him through troubled times.

"I had been feeling down for a long time, and that song just broke through the shell I was trapped inside," he said in his entry. "I had been under a rain cloud for so long. The song says a lot of powerful things: about the lasting coldness of the winter inside us, and, in the powerful last verse, about how the seasons of our emotions rise and fall like the wind; how a little rain must fall on all of us."

At the book launch, Espina had the chance to meet the authors who had interviewed him, sign books and see a performance by the Barenaked Ladies.

"I think, I just really believe in the whole project, how much music benefits everything," he said. "It's my main medicine, and I think a lot of people could benefit from that."

He said he is thrilled that music therapy is becoming part of the cycle of treatment.

"Music can help you," he said. "It's not going to solve all your problems, neither are medications, but find your coping methods and I think music is one of the last things on this planet that's really true and real. It comes from the soul. There's something in it for everybody. Regardless of how much it helps, I think it can really benefit everybody in some way."

To learn more about the T*he Awesome Music Project* visit theawesomemusicproject.com.

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Student art show and sale wraps the season

A flurry of activity is happening in the studios of Fleming College. Students are busy preparing for Wrap it Up, the end-of-semester art exhibition hosted by current students in full-time certificate programs at the Haliburton School of Art + Design. This one-day show will take place on Dec. 14 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Wrap it Up provides an opportunity for emerging artists to gain exhibition experience and showcase their many talents. The culminating exhibit will feature a variety of media from fall semester students including painting and drawing, artist blacksmithing, ceramics and photography. Artists will be available to discuss their works and answer questions. Select works will be available for purchase. The exhibition is free of charge and open to all. Join inspiring students for light refreshments as well as the opportunity to explore the unique and stimulating space that is the Haliburton School of Art + Design.

Submitted by Erin Lynch

Haliburton School of Art + Design students talk to guests about their work at the Wrap It Up student show and sale at the campus in this file photo from 2018. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

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Send your letters to the editor to jenn@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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• Pressure to buy now. Fraudsters frequently use high-pressure sales tactics – to get your money and then move on to other victims. If you're asked to make a decision right away, it's likely not in your best interest.

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Another useful way to protect yourself is to make sure you always understand what you're investing in. Don't be afraid to ask questions and get a second opinion. If the explanation is too complex or technical, or if you feel pressured to buy on the spot, you should be cautious and only make a decision that you're comfortable with. If you cannot afford to lose the money you are investing, do not invest it under pressure.

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You can learn more about protecting yourself from investment frauds by visiting GetSmarterAboutMoney.ca, the OSC's award-winning investor education website.

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-Ontario Securities Commission

Top 10 things to text Santa if you are on the naughty list

AS CHRISTMAS DRAWS near, I think we are all pretty sure of where we stand with Santa. There are those who are on the nice list. Then, there are the rest of us.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

Luckily, there are things you can do if you are on the naughty list. I suggest texting Santa with one of the following messages.

1. I have pictures of you kissing Mommy and, if the naughty designation goes away, Mrs. Claus won't ever see them.
2. Not sure it helps but I happen to know Dasher and Dancer and Donner and Blitzen.
3. Upgrade me to nice and I'll leave a little something under the eggnog.
4. Just so you know, I represent Elf Local 1207.
5. FYI, I've still got one deer tag left.
6. You better have a strong case because I've got a very good lawyer.
7. You must be confusing me with my twin brother.
8. Whatever you heard, it's not true.
9. I just want you to know, I'm a changed person.
10. I know which mall you work at. Just saying.

Joni And Gordon

The sunrise is milky
Cold moth struggles by
Odd quilts of rough mist
Perch between field and sky

All green has gone mouldy
And skeletons black
Replace jolly dresses
On soft tamarack

I've got the urge for staying
Though wild geese chevron south
Those minor chords of weather
Put verses in my mouth

Some days, ribbon darkness
Highway's not carefree
And I on my rivers
Skate unconsciously

I drew Canada
To track all memory
Of willows and cattails,
Both cloud-sides and me

I've got the urge for staying
Though wild geese chevron south
Those minor chords of weather
Put verses in my mouth

And all keeps repeating
In ballads of love
That fall-winter dreaming
Bare branch and above

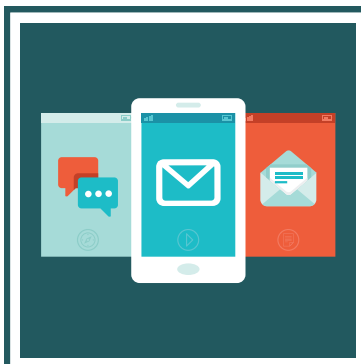
We each move through seasons
Connected to rhyme
That heartbeat of tenure
Which signatures time

I've got the urge for staying
Though wild geese chevron south
Those minor chords of weather
Put verses in my mouth

When everything empties
To white and pale blues
We sleep in brave safety
That spring brings its news

I've got the urge for staying
Though wild geese chevron south
Those minor chords of weather
Put verses in my mouth

By Deborah J Reed



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
jenn@haliburtonpress.com

Land trust to map wetland with climate action funding

JENN WATT
County Life Editor

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust recently announced that it had received a grant for more than $36,000 from Environment and Climate Change Canada to map and evaluate the Kendrick Creek Wetland Complex with the goal of having the area designated a provincially significant wetland.

The Fred and Pearl Barry Wetland Reserve, which is one of the land trust's properties, is at the top of Kendrick Creek, at the outflow of South Lake, and is part of the wider 849-hectare wetland complex.

HHLT chairperson Mary-Lou Gerstl said part of the project will include education and awareness raising about the importance of wetlands to the overall environmental health of the region and their role in combating climate change and flooding.

One of the first orders of business will be a presentation to Minden Hills council.

"I think they're going to find this exciting, certainly for them it brings awareness to climate change and the value of the wetlands to mitigate flooding. We want them to be the first to know," Gerstl said in an interview.

The Barry Wetland is about 25 hectares of wetland within a 40-hectare property, but the funding is to map and evaluate the whole complex, which will be led by biologist Paul Heaven.

"He's done a fair part of the areas around [the Kendrick Creek complex] already, certainly he is very familiar with the Barry Wetland and he's very familiar of course with the species at risk that live on these properties in the wetland," she said.

The wetland complex is part of the watershed that extends into Snowdon Park, a popular place for people to go hiking, snowshoeing or walking their dogs.

Gerstl said the land trust will be reaching out to landowners who have property on the wetland complex and letting them know about the importance of the wetland to the environment as well as about tax incentives that may exist.

"Awareness is the key here. The more that people are aware of what a wetland does for us and how vast it is [the better]," she said. "I was shocked when Paul [Heaven] showed imaging of the wetlands – and it's many, many wetlands that are all connected and they all work together to mitigate flooding."

The funding for the project is provided through the Climate Action Fund.

Minden
Community
Christmas Basket
For Minden & Area Families
In Need of Assistance At Christmas
Pick up day is December 20th
"We thank you for your support"
• Families with children 1:00-2:00pm
• Adults from 2:00-3:00pm
Volunteers are invited to assist with sorting and packing food and toys on the 19th & 20th of December at the Nesbitt Community Centre from 9-4pm
Thank You for your assistance!

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES
Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care

www.hhhs.ca

HHHS IS LOOKING FOR NEW DIRECTORS

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) Corporation has openings for new directors – local residents and cottage owners who want to help build on the outstanding health services currently provided in the county. HHHS operates facilities in Minden and Haliburton providing hospital (emergency services, acute care, and palliative), long-term care, and community services.

HHHS is privileged to have an outstanding team of health professionals and modern facilities. Challenges persist in attracting new staff, meeting the needs of our aging population, and anticipating/planning for the future.

The HHHS Board strives to bring together a group of individuals with knowledge of the community. HHHS is particularly interested in hearing from people with knowledge, experience, and/or interest in any of the following areas:

- planning and delivery of quality and accessible health services
- financial
- clinical
- legal
- information technology
- public relations/communications
- human resources
- participating on a community board

If you feel you have the time, energy, and commitment to be a Director, then we would like to hear from you by January 31, 2020. The new Directors will be appointed at the annual general meeting in June.

In addition to new director positions, HHHS is accepting applications for community members on its Finance and Quality Committees.

For further information and an application, please access our website at: www.hhhs.ca / administration & board / board & oversight

Or contact: Marlene Vieira
Executive Assistant to President & CEO and Board
Phone (705) 457-2527
mvieira@hhhs.ca

24th Annual
Christmas Challenge
Join the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association and help us to make a difference!
As the Christmas party season commences,The Haliburton County Home Builders would like to encourage you to include its Christmas Challenge in your plans. Large or small, each gift will help fill the Christmas hampers distributed by the Food Banks in Haliburton County.
This is the 24th anniversary of the Christmas Challenge. Whether this is the first year you have taken the challenge or the 24th year all gifts are needed. If you aren't sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates. A value of $15.00 each make is easy to top up gifts for families who have teenagers
STEP 1:
Call 705-457-6901 in advance to arrange a date to pick up your gifts
STEP 2:
Collect unwrapped toys or food items at your office or your Christmas Party.
Haliburton County
Home Builders Association
CALL
705-457-6901
and book a time for your gift pick up then start collecting.
Remember to make the most of the Challenge have your gifts ready for pick up BEFORE
December 13th.
County Sign & Display
CANOE 100.9 FM
93.5 Moose FM
NORTRAX
www.nortrax.com
The Echo
The Times

GMC

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Some trims may have effective rates higher than 0%. ^Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada on select vehicles purchased and delivered from December 3 – January 2, 2020. 0%/0% purchase financing (0%/0% APR) offered on approved credit by TD Auto Finance Services, Scotiabank® or RBC Royal Bank for 84/72 months on eligible new 2019 Acadia Denali/2019 Next-Generation Sierra Crew Cab Elevation models. Participating lenders are subject to change. Rates from other lenders will vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $52,795/$51,475 financed at 0%/0% nominal rate (0%/0% APR) equals $629/$692 monthly for 84/72 months. The offer includes $650/$2,650 Cash Delivery Allowance (tax exclusive) and $1,750/$2,850 finance cash (tax exclusive), $0/$1,000 RST Bonus and $0/$500 Option Package Discount. Cost of borrowing is $0/$0, for a total obligation of $53,545/$51,475. Freight ($1,895/$1,895) and air conditioning charge ($100/$100, if applicable) included. License, insurance, registration, PPSA, applicable taxes and, except in Quebec, dealer fees not included (all of which may vary by dealer and region). Dealers are free to set individual prices. ®Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. TD Auto Finance is a registered trademark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. ◊Offers are valid toward the retail purchase of an eligible new or demonstrator in stock 2019 Sierra Double Cab delivered in Canada between December 3 and January 2, 2020. Up to 25% Of MSRP Cash Purchase Credit is a manufacturer to dealer incentive (tax exclusive), valid toward retail cash purchases only on select 2019 models in stock. Not compatible with special lease and finance rates. By selecting lease or finance offers, consumers are foregoing this credit which will result in higher effective cost of credit on their transaction. Credit is calculated on vehicle MSRP (which excludes vehicle freight), excluding any dealer-installed options. Credit value will vary with model purchased: models receiving up to 25% of MSRP Cash Purchase Credit are: Sierra 1500 Limited. ~Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles purchased and delivered between December 2 – January 3, 2020. Lease based on suggested retail price of $34,288, towards the lease of an eligible 2020 Terrain SLE FWD Elevation. Bi-weekly payment is $185 for 48 months at 1% lease rate (1% APR) on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. The $93 weekly payment is calculated by dividing the bi-weekly payments. Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis. Equivalent weekly payments are for informational purposes only. Annual kilometer limit of 20,000 km, $0.16 per excess kilometer. $0 down payment required. Payment may vary depending on down payment trade. Total obligation is $19,175. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and applicable fees, levies, duties and, except in Quebec, dealer fees (all of which may vary by dealer and region) are extra. Option to purchase at lease end is $16,115. Factory order may be required. ¤ Safety or driver assistance features are no substitute for the driver's responsibility to operate the vehicle in a safe manner. The driver should remain attentive to traffic, surroundings and road conditions at all times. Visibility, weather, and road conditions may affect feature performance. Read the vehicle Owner's Manual for more important feature limitations and information. ΩWhichever comes first. Limit of four complimentary Lube-Oil-Filter services in total. Fluid top-offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc., are not covered. See the Warranty Booklet or your dealer for details. ∞ Whichever comes first. See your dealer. Δ Visit onstar.ca for vehicle availability, coverage maps, details and system limitations. Services and connectivity vary by model and conditions as well as geographical and technical restrictions. 4G LTE service available in select markets. Requires active connected vehicle services and a data plan to access the vehicle's built-in Wi-Fi hotspot. Accessory Power must be active to use the Wi-Fi hotspot. Data plans provided by AT&T or its local service provider. Credit card is required for purchase.

Lake association puts on the drive

CHAD INGRAM
County Life staff

Each Thanksgiving weekend, members of the Maple, Beech and Cameron Lake Area Property Owners' Association (MBC) gather at St. Peter's Church at Maple Lake and, along with congregation members, collect food and money that is then dropped off at the Minden Food Bank.

"There's a lot of goodness," says Charlie O'Connor of the MBC executive, seated in the community kitchen at the Minden Community Food Centre on Newcastle Street. "You've got the goodness of everybody donating, you take that goodness and you bring it down to these people, to the food bank here, and they're elated with it, because they know how much goodness they can send out into the community."

This past Thanksgiving, MBC brought two truckloads of food to the food bank, along with more than $2,200. As O'Connor explains, the association itself is able to fund-match donations from members, up to a total of $1,000. MBC's Thanksgiving food drive, a partnership with St. Peter's Church, has been taking place for a few years now.

"It started with, the members of MBC wanted to do something for the community, and I know that Thanksgiving food drives have been done by other groups," says MBC member Sally Howson. "And, it's a logical thing, why take your food back to the city type of thing."

Howson says it's been eye-opening for some members of the association how reliant on the food bank many Minden and area residents are. "People not realizing how many children rely on the food bank," she says. "So, I think what we've been able to do is raise awareness."

MBC has contributed about $6,000, along with truckloads of food, to the food bank during the past five years.

It's common for more than 200 families to be using the Minden Food Bank at any point in time, and there are about 225 currently registered.

"Originally, the food bank was an emergency food bank," says manager Joanne Barnes. "Now, it's a way of life. Most of our families can barely manage to survive three weeks, and the food bank picks up the slack for the next 10 days until their next cheque comes in."

MBC member Murray Adam speaks highly of the food bank's volunteers, and the time they put it.

"It takes a lot of people to do it [MBC's food drive], to collect the food and whatnot," Adam says. "But then you come down here and you realize these folks are doing this year-round. It's not just a weekend thing. They're here all the time."

The food bank has 35 to 40 volunteers, the community kitchen 14.

Barnes says of her 15 years with the food bank, this has been the worst yet, and that since September, she's been registering new families on each day the food bank is open, including three new families the day she was interviewed. She says as many of 40 per cent of families who use the food bank have members who are employed, but have trouble making ends meet by the end of the month. The number of clients increases during the winter months, and drops during the summer when more seasonal work is available. Last summer, for example, 225 families using the food bank dropped to 88.

"All those others got work, and didn't have to come in here," Barnes says.

Then, by mid-August, numbers start to climb again as seasonal jobs fold up.

When asked how many lake associations make regular contributions to the food bank, "There's two or three," Barnes says. "There's room to encourage others."

And that's what O'Connor would like to do. Not create a competitive atmosphere, he notes, but to encourage other lake associations to create similar drives and keep the food bank in mind. O'Connor says he'd also like to thank the association's sponsors, who help makes its activities viable.

Members of the Maple, Beech and Cameron Lakes Area Property Owners' Association join volunteers at the Minden Food Bank. From left are Murray Adam, Sally Howson, Charlie O'Connor, Bruce Fisher, Gary Stoner, food bank manager Joanne Barnes, Bruno Campagnolo and Jim Wilson. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

Legion Events

Branch 636 Minden

Monday – Thursday Lunch 12 to 2 p.m.
Tuesday Special liver day, regular menu also.
Friday 12 to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m., Fish, Chicken Wings, Fries and Onion Rings.
Daily events: Monday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Haliburton Highlands Rug Hookers. (every two weeks)
Tuesday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Senior art group. 1 to 4 p.m., Bid Euchre,
Wednesday 12 - Meat Draws, 4 butcher quality meats for $1 a ticket. 1 to 4 p.m., Ladies Darts, 5 to 7 p.m. Calorie Counters 5"30 to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday 7 p.m. Darts. 7 p.m. Euchre
Friday Every second week, Karaoke with Fred and Linda, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Saturday Special Lunch every week with meat Draw at 1 p.m.
Sunday Sports Day 12 to 4:30 p.m.

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Branch 624 Wilberforce

Friday C. C. lunch. To book call Denice Butler 705-448-8865.
Everyone 55+ welcome.
Wing night 6 to 9 p.m.
Jam session 7:30 p.m.
Saturday Meat draw 2 p.m. Early bird 3 p.m. Sharp! If you come out offer to help sell tickets please!
Monday Bid Euchre 7 p.m. Beginner's welcome.
Wednesday Fun Darts 7:30 p.m. Beginner's welcome.
Upcoming Events
Early bird membership renewal $45
Dec 31 - New years dance. Tickets on sale now $20. Featuring D.J. Isla. Buffet, spot dances, party favours. Having a event ? Book our hall and have L.A. cater for you. They do a great job! Want to get involved? Please call or drop by the legion 705-448-2221 now if you can help.

Branch 129 Haliburton

Dave Allen, PRO 705-457-2571
Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1 p.m.
Tuesday Night Dart League starting at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start Bingo Doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. - $1,000 Jackpot - last Wednesday of the month.
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Cribbage 1 p.m. start Meat Draw Five Draws, Five Prizes each draw, First draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw - 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Chester Howse, MC Friday fun darts - 4:30 p.m. onwards
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw, Tickets are $1 each from noon onwards
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcl129@bellnet.ca or visit haliburtonlegion.com Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129. Everyone is welcome!

troyoptical
We are now booking Eye Exams
For more information, contact our office at
705-286-0727

Community Events

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS MUSEUM | 66 MUSEUM ROAD, HALIBURTON
December 15
JOLLY JOG
Registration: 10:00am - 11:00am
Run/Walk: 11:00am
Retro Festivities @ the Museum following Run/Walk
Follow Dysart Recreation on Facebook for updates and more information

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email: info@rodcoen.com website: www.rodcoen.com
phone: 705.457.1224 fax: 705.457.1900 toll free: 1.866.343.4985

West Guilford Community Christmas Dinner
Medeba would like to invite you to our 6th annual complimentary Christmas Dinner
When: Saturday, Dec.14, Appetizers at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6 p.m.
Where: Medeba Dining Hall, 1270 Kennisis Lake Road
RSVP: Please RSVP by Friday, Dec. 6 to Katie by phone 705-754-2444 or by email katie@medeba.com

Santa at Lockside Trading Company
When: Saturday, Dec.14 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Santa will be there for wishes and pictures. Do not forget your letters for Santa! They will be mailed out with return letters from Old Saint Nick himself. All proceeds going to Jack's Journey & MPS II Research Fund to learn more about Jack and MPS II visit www.jacksjourney.ca/ and www.lockside.com

Haliburton Lions Children's Christmas Party
When: Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church
Free to children age 4 to 8 (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3). There will be songs, games, crafts, treats and a new book for every child. Space is limited and registration is required. Parent or Guardian please call Tina at 705 457-9399 to register.
For more information, please visit our website at haliburtonlions.com

Glorious Christmas
When: Sunday, December 15, 9:30 a.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, Minden
Brunch following, by donation. Joint Worship Service - churches will worship together 9:30 a.m. in Minden

Essonville Historic Church Christmas Service
When: Dec. 15, 7 pm
Where: 1284 Essonville Line, County Rd. 4
A celebration of Christmas with special music and congregational carol singing in an old-fashioned setting illuminated by candles and lanterns

"Come & Adore Him" Cantata by Haliburton United Church Choir
When: Sunday, Dec. 15, 11:15 a.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. at Pine St., Haliburton
Directed by Melissa Stephens

Hyland Crest Musical Christmas, Minden
When: Tuesday, Dec. 17, 10:30 a.m.
This ecumenical program celebrates the season.

Christmas Eve Service (with choir)
When: Dec. 24, 4 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, Minden

Christmas Eve Service
When: Tuesday, December 24, 7 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. at Pine St., Haliburton
Joint Pastoral Charge Evening Service – Communion and Special Guest Music Artists

Free Public Skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon, Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd
When: Friday, Dec. 27, noon - 1:30 p.m.
Where: A. J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton

Free Public Skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon, Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd
When: Thursday, January 2, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Where: A. J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton

Free Public Skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon, Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd
When: Friday, January 3, noon to 1:30 p.m.
Where: A. J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton

Mike Stevens: Harmonica Virtuoso
When: Thursday, Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 New Castle Street, Minden
What: Breathe in the world. Breathe out the music. In this energetic and interactive family performance with awe inspiring harmonica virtuoso Mike Stevens, discover that music is inside and around us all the time. Presented by Razzamataz Kids' Shows! For more info and tickets visit www.razzamataz.ca/shows/ or contact Dawn Mole-Hurd 705-854-0728

Recurring Events

Devotional Gatherings
When: Mondays and/or Tuesdays, 2:30 and/or 7 p.m., to be arranged
Where: In homes at Minden, Kennisis Lake, Haliburton
What: Come join us for prayers, meditations and readings; all spiritual traditions are honoured and welcome. An open space for reflection, prayer and sharing for well-being of individuals and the state of the world. "Religion should unite all hearts and cause wars and disputes to vanish from the face of the earth..." Call Kathie/George at 705-286-3378 or Pat at 416-606-9657

The Highland Storytelling Circle
Beginning Dec 5, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
meets the first Thursday of the month in the Radio Hall of Canoe FM. Join us with a story or just to listen. No charge, all welcome.
For more information call Bob at 705 457 8617.

SMART, safe and gentle exercise for Seniors.
Offered by VON for strength, balance and flexibility.
Haliburton: Parklane Apt. Tuesday, 1 to 2 p.m.
Echo Hills Apt. Thursday, 1 to 2 p.m.
Minden: Hyland Crest Auditorium - Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Classes are free
For more information, contact Cathy Thomas, 705-489-2187 or Carol Browne, 705-457-4551

Grief Support Group Community Support Services
When: 1st Wednesday of Every Month Hyland Crest Auditorium, Minden Hospital 1 to 3 p.m. or 2nd Wednesday of Every Month Abbey Retreat Center, 1150 Garden Gate Drive West Guilford 1 to 3 p.m.
Offering emotional support in a safe and non-judgemental environment
For more information about resources and services, please contact Tel 705-457-2941 x 2932 Email: infocc@hhhs.ca Or visit our website at www.hhhs.ca

Taoist Tai Chi
Stanhope - Stanhope Community Centre
Tuesday 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Haliburton - Haliburton United Church
Monday 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Kinmount- Galway Community Hall
Monday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. -12 p.m.
For more information please contact Wilma at 705-457-5829 or Taoist.org/Peterborough for schedule of classes

Minden Bible Church Children's and Youth Programs
KidzLife (Mid-Week Kids Program): Every Tuesday, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
MBC Youth (Youth Group): Every Thursday, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
KidzLife ages: Grades JK to Grade 6
MBC Youth ages: Grades 7 to12
All are welcome and invited! Together, we will: learn about the truth and the life in Jesus Christ, play epic games, meet others within the community of Minden, eat snacks, etc.
www.mindenbiblechurch.ca

Morning Glories Fitness
Where: Upstairs, A.J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton
When: Tuesday and Friday mornings, 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m.
Ladies fitness group for all levels
Contact: Jane 705-754-9996

Community Drum Circle
Wednesdays 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre Patio, 23 York St.
Join the community Drum Circle. Instruments available. Beginners welcome. Family-friendly. Each week a volunteer will facilitate the Circle. By donation in support of Haliburton DrumFest

Haliburton: Pickleball
When: Tuesday and Friday evenings from 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton High School Gym.
Cost is $2 and rackets are provided. Bring clean indoor shoes.
Contact Jennifer Coates 705-749-3787 for further info.

Minden: Pickleball
When: Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Where: S.G. Nesbitt Community Centre, Minden
Racquets are provided so all you need are clean indoor shoes.
Cost is $2
Contact: Elisha Weiss, Community Development Coordinator, 705-286-2298 or eweiss@mindenhills.ca

Family Fun Bingo
Every Tuesday at 6 p.m. At the Kinmount Legion

Harcourt Community Centre
Harcourt Bingo every week on Wednesdays
Doors open at 6:45 and bingo starts at 7:30
Regular euchre night every week Thursday night starting at 7 p.m.
The new community centre is also air conditioned.

Kinmount Library
The Friends of the Library group have a monthly book sale at the Kinmount Library the third Saturday of every month.
Al-anon Minden
When; Monday evenings at 7 p.m.
Where: Hyland Crest (north entrance, follow signs inside building), 6 MacPherson, Minden
Details: For relatives and friends of problem drinkers. For more information call 1-888-425-2666

Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild
When: Second Wednesday of every month from 1 to 4 p.m.
Where: Stanhope Community Centre, 1095 North Shore Rd., Algonquin Highlands
Details: Meeting includes speakers holding trunk shows of their work, often covering new and interesting quilt and sewing techniques. Our group consists of quilters at all levels, who enjoy sharing and learning from each other. Check out our Facebook page or our web site: Facebook.com/haliburtonquilts or www.haliburtonhighlandsquiltguild.com
Contact: Connie Walker 905-439-5943 or haliburtonquilts@gmail.com

Want to get your event in Community Calendar? It's free!
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www.haliburtonroom.com

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220 FIREWOOD FOR SALE

Firewood for sale: $100.00/single cord, $280.00/bush cord. Also bone dry wood: $140.00/single cord, $400.00/bush cord. ***Phone: 705-306-2827 or 705-928-8762***

Cut, split & delivered seasoned firewood. $350/bush cord for single bush cord. Multiple cord rate **$325.00** on more than one bush cord. 90% maple/all hardwood. Hand split & hand thrown onto truck. Very clean wood. Dry also available. ***Call:705-930-7198.***

420 SERVICES

Mike A. Thomson General Contracting. Roofing - Decks - Docks - Carpentry Repairs. ***Call Today! 705-457-6365***

CM Painting & Decorating Let us take care of your Interior painting before the holidays! Superior Workmanship Excellent Rates Email: ***c.m.painting@hotmail.com*** ***Text or Call: (647) 588-1774***

260 AUTOMOTIVE FOR SALE

For Sale: 4 Firestone Winter tires on steel rims. 20,000 km P215/70R16, 99, S-M+S $300.00 ***705-457-1965***

Used Tires on Rims - Winter Force, P265/70R17, 113S M&S. Tubeless Radial 6 Studs. Asking $100. **Leer Truck Cap** - fits Ford Crew Cab short box. Black sliding front and side windows. Lined inside. Asking $950. ***Call 705-286-2373***

380 COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

Storage Rental Space Available. Units from 5.5' x 10' to 11' x 24'. Please send inquires to ***blakestorage13513@gmail.com or 705-457-2250***

SELF CONTAINED STORAGE UNITS for rent, discounts available located on Industrial Park Road in Haliburton. ***Call 705 457-1224.***

Find it in the Classifieds!

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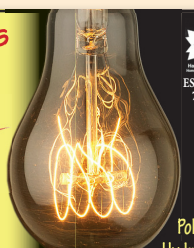

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Book by *HOWARD LINDSAY* and *RUSSEL CROUSE*

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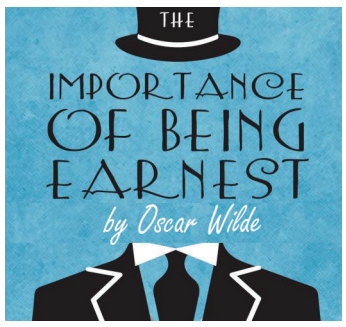

The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde

One of the cleverest comedies by one of the greatest writers in the English language, The Importance of Being Earnest has delighted audiences since its premiere in 1885. Oscar Wilde's scintillating, hilarious work introduces us to Jack and Algernon, charming bachelors who are each living a double life, aided by a fictional alter ego called "Ernest." But the two fall truly in love with a pair of proper young women, Gwendolen and Cecily – both of whom are partial to men named Ernest. Will Jack and Algy be able to bring an end to the charade and convince the formidable Lady Bracknell that they are suitable candidates for marriage? Wicked wit and dead-on social satire are wrapped in a confection of dual identities, matrimonial matters, Victorian social conventions and the provenance of a particular handbag. ***Performances July 13-16 (7:30 p.m.), July 17 & 19 (2 p.m. matinee), July 20, 21 (7:30 p.m.).***

Lucien

Written & Performed by Marshall Button

Lucien, the opinionated mill-worker and New Brunswick's Blue-Collar Philosopher, has enjoyed a 25 year run since he first appeared in Fredericton, as part of a satirical Bicentennial revue, Maritime Mixed Grill. The show now plays like a comedic period-piece while also skewering contemporary issues. Lucien hearkens back to an era when jobs were plentiful, unions were strong and job security was not a dirty word. Marshall Button developed the character Lucien based on his experiences working in the paper mill in his hometown of Dalhousie, New Brunswick and is nearing 2000 performances of Lucien, from coast to coast in every Canadian province. ***Performances July 22, 23 (7:30 p.m.),24 (2 p.m. matinee).***

Every Brilliant Thing

by Duncan Macmillan
with Jonny Donahoe

You're six years old. Mum's in hospital. Dad says she's "done something stupid." She finds it hard to be happy. So you start to make a list of everything that's brilliant about the world. Everything that's worth living for….. 1. Ice cream. 2. Kung Fu movies. 3. Burning things. 4. Laughing so hard you shoot milk out your nose. 5. Construction cranes. 6. Me. You leave it on her pillow. You know she's read it because she's corrected your spelling. Soon, the list will take on a life of its own. Every Brilliant Thing is an uplifting play about depression and the lengths we will go to for those we love.

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Performances July 27-30 (7:30 p.m.), 31 (2 p.m. matinee).

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starring Leisa Way & The Lonely Hearts Club Band

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Highlights

Rescue

When a white tailed deer buck fell through the thin ice on Lake Kashagawigamog, residents from both sides of the lake came to the rescue. They pulled the flailing buck from the icy water and cared for it until it was well enough to return to the wild last Monday.
Please see page 2.

Sewer

The final report of the Dysart sewage plant expansion is out, but residents on the lake still aren't satisfied and plan to ask the Ministry of Environment for an environmental impact study.
Please see page 19.

St. Nick

Santa Claus helped warm the hearts of hundreds of area children Saturday which helped chase off the cold of a sub-zeroe morning. The first Minden Santa Claus Parade was a big hit on all accounts.
Please see page 29

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs were in Minden Saturday to help welcom Santa to town during the first Lions Santa Claus Parade. Sneezy, Grumpy and Doc were aboard the Westside Jug City float that took first place in the Commercial category of this highly-successful parade. There were about 50 entries in the parade, which took about 45 minutes to pass any point along the route. Several hundred viewers lined the street for this festive event and more than 300 children later had an opportunity to sit on Santa's lap and whisper the Christmas wishes in his ear.

Varying ideas on rail corridor expressed at meeting

With everyone pulling in different directions, the County's Railway Corridor Committee is facing a difficult task in deciding how the property should be developed and who should be allowed to use it.

At a meeting with adjoining landowners last week, the committee heard several dissenting views on what whould be done with the 100-foot-wide strip of land that stretches from Kinmount to Haliburton village.

Committee chairman George Simmons said the County's decision to purchase the abandoned railway is viewed by many as "the smartest move Haliburton has ever made." However, the process of devoping the narrow strip of land will demand tolerance. He said the county has budgeted only $10,000 for it this year. "You can't do a heck of a lot with that."

Only about 15 people turned out to the meeting, and most had differing opinions of what the county should do with the property. Most agreed that the County should keep the property, rather than sell it back to the adjoining landowners. Many agreed that the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association should be allowed to use the line again this winter. Others wanted it preserved for non-motorized activities like hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, cross-country skiing or dog sledding. Some wanted it turned into a roadway and one person suggested

(more on page 25)

By-law for steel plant passed by council

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

Minden council has passed the controversial rezoning by-law for a metal fabrication plant in the Canning Lake area, but local residents plan to send the matter before an Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

The rezoning and Official Plan amendment will allow Hans Walter to operate his business, known as North Steel, on the 23-acre parcel of land near Ingoldsby. The industrial zoning will apply only to a five-acre parcel upon which the business will be located.

At a public meeting dealing with the rezoning last Thursday, council heard strong opposition to the proposal by people who own property in the Canning Lake area.

They expressed concerns that the location of the business will result in a decrease in the value of their properties, that North Steel poses a threat to the environment, and that the move will set a precedent for other industries to locate in the area.

Last Thursday was the third time council had passed a rezoning by-law to allow Walter's operation on the property.

The first time, in December 1988, one of the adjoining property owners, Albert Cavan, was not notified of the rezoning. As a result, council had to rescind the by-law and start over.

The by-law was passed again and an appeal was sent to the Ontario Municipal Board by neighbouring property owners. The hearing was scheduled for last Thursday, but the township cancelled the hearing on the advice of planning consultant Bob Lehman, who wanted the township to redefine the zoning by-law and pass an accompanying Official Plan amendment.

The by-law which council passed permits only the operation of the steel fabrication business and an accessory dwelling unit. The shop operation includes the cutting, bending, welding, assembling, painting and warehousing of steel products.

The issue has been an emotional one for the neighbouring property owners, and tempers flared during last week's public meeting.

The meeting had barely begun when one propety owner, Joseph Curtin, objected to the proceedings because he said the rezoning had not been advertised, just the Official Plan amendment.

Curtin told council it should proceed with the Official Plan amendment but postpone discussions on the rezoning application until it had been properly circulated.

However, when Cavan said the rezoning had been listed on the notices which went out to adjoining property owners, Curtin withdrew his objection.

Chris Lloyd, another of Walter's neighbours, then objected to council that Walter was not present at the meeting to answer questions.

Minden Reeve Ray Moore agreed that Walter should be in attendance but said council could not force him to be there.

Lloyd suggested that the meeting be adjourned until a time when Walter would attend, and if he still wouldn't show up the application for the rezoning "should fall by the wayside."

Moore said Walter's presence was not necessary for the meeting to be held and said the application would proceed regardless of the applicant's absence.

"There's no reason for Mr. Walter to be here," said councillor Bob Sisson. "We're just doing the same thing as last time."

Lloyd said that if council passed the rezoning and Official Plan amendment,

(more on page 7)

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